

2020 Public Use Microdata Areas Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

September 2021

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SECTION 1 2020 PUMA BASICS

1.1 What are Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs)?

Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs) are non-overlapping, statistical geographic areas that partition each state or equivalent entity into contiguous geographic areas of at least 100,000 people. They cover the entirety of the United States, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands do not have PUMAs because their population is less than 100,000. Census tracts and/or whole counties serve as the geographic foundation for PUMAs.

The Census Bureau creates PUMAs for the tabulation and dissemination of Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) data. Additionally, the American Community Survey and Puerto Rico Community Survey use PUMAs to disseminate their respective period estimates.

1.2 What are Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) data?

PUMS data are a subsample of the full ACS records. The data files show a full range of population and housing unit responses collected on individual ACS questionnaires for a subsample of ACS housing units and group quarters persons. They enable data users to create custom estimates and tables that are not available through ACS pre-tabulated data products.

Refer to [Microdata \(census.gov\)](https://www.census.gov/microdata) and [Geography & ACS \(census.gov\)](https://www.census.gov/geography) for more details.

1.3 What is the 2020 Public Use Microdata Areas Program (2020 PUMA)?

The 2020 PUMA is a Census Bureau program that invites the State Data Centers (SDCs) in each state, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to delineate Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs) within their state or equivalent entity using specific criteria and guidelines.

1.4 When does the 2020 PUMA occur?

The 2020 PUMA occurs between September 2021 and January 2022.

1.5 What is the deadline for making a submission for the 2020 PUMA?

The deadline for submissions is January 31, 2022.

1.6 What has changed for the 2020 PUMA from the program in 2010?

For the 2020 PUMA, the Census Bureau requires the use of the Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) to prepare the submission and the use of the Secure Web Incoming Module (SWIM) to send the submission to the Census Bureau.

The Census Bureau will implement two substantive changes to the PUMA criteria for 2020. First, for PUMAs comprised of census tracts and covering less than entire counties, each unique PUMA-county part must have a population of at least 10,000. Second, a PUMA may consist of noncontiguous territory to encompass populations and communities that are more homogenous; however, the noncontiguous areas must contain a population of at least 10,000. The Census Bureau will review and provide final approval for all noncontiguous PUMAs.

SECTION 2 CRITERIA AND GUIDELINES

2.1 What are the 2020 PUMA criteria and guidelines?

Refer to the *2020 PUMA Final Criteria* document on the [2020 PUMA website](#) for more specific details and examples, but at a summary level:

- Minimum Required Population and Maximum Suggested Population.
 - Require minimum population threshold of 100,000 persons with the ability to maintain this population throughout the decade.
 - Should not contain more than 200,000 persons wherever possible, unless defining the PUMA for an area where significant population decline is anticipated.
- Relationships Between PUMAs and Other Geographic Areas.
 - Must not cross state boundaries.
 - Should comprise an area that is either entirely inside or entirely outside a core based statistical area (CBSA) where possible¹.
 - Should use 2020 place definitions, 2010 urban/rural definitions, and local knowledge to inform PUMA delineations.
 - Should avoid splitting Census Bureau urban areas.
 - Should avoid splitting governmental minor civil divisions (MCDs).
 - Avoid splitting American Indian reservations and/or off-reservation trust lands (AIRs/ORTLs), particularly if the population is included within all parts of the split AIR/ORTL. Since AIRs/ORTLs may cross state boundaries, this guideline applies only to the portion of an AIR/ORTL within a state. In all such instances, consider the total population and makeup of the affected areas in any decisions regarding the adjustment of PUMAs for AIRs/ORTLs.
 - If the AIR/ORTL has a population of <100,000, it should be contained within one PUMA.
 - If the AIR/ORTL has a population of <200,000, it should be contained within no more than two PUMAs.
- Geographic Entities Used to Define PUMAs.
 - Must use counties (or equivalent entities²) and/or census tracts to construct.
 - A single county may be a PUMA if it meets the 100,000 minimum population threshold.
 - Two or more contiguous counties may be combined to form a PUMA that meets the 100,000 minimum population threshold.
 - Divide counties with more than 200,000 population using census tracts. Consider aggregation of census tracts that approximate the extent of other geographic entities (i.e., MCDs, incorporated places, census designated places, and/or urban areas).

¹ The term, core based statistical areas became effective in 2000 and refers collectively to metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas. Refer to [Metropolitan and Micropolitan \(census.gov\)](#) for more information.

² Includes parishes in Louisiana; boroughs and census areas in Alaska; municipios in Puerto Rico; independent cities in Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, and Virginia; that portion of Yellowstone National Park in Montana; districts in American Samoa; three main islands of the U.S. Virgin Islands; municipalities in the Northern Mariana Islands; and the entire areas constituting the District of Columbia and Guam.

- Census tract-based PUMAs may cross county boundaries provided each PUMA-county part meets a minimum population threshold of 10,000. This is an increase from the 2,400-minimum requirement from 2010. This change is intended to further ensure the confidentiality of data in a PUMA-county part, align with the 2020 Census urban area plans, and eliminate unique geographic areas with low population.
- Contiguity and Noncontiguity Guidelines for Delineation of PUMAs.
 - To the greatest extent possible, each PUMA should encompass a single, geographically contiguous area.
 - May be noncontiguous if the county, counties, or census tracts used to form the PUMA are noncontiguous.
 - Use of noncontiguous building blocks is acceptable where it facilitates more demographically homogenous areas; however, this is not intended to create highly fragmented PUMAs.
 - All noncontiguous PUMAs are subject to Census Bureau final review and approval.
- Place of work (POW) and Migration (MIG) PUMAs.
 - Delineated by statisticians, not as part of the 2020 PUMA, using Place of work data and in/out migration data after the 2020 PUMA concludes.
 - Standard PUMAs used to create POWPUMAs and MIGPUMAs; therefore, carefully consider standard PUMA relationships with other geographic areas when forming the standard PUMAs.
 - Can consist of single PUMA or combination of PUMAs (county-based or census tract-based), but must aggregate to whole counties. Carefully consider how this will affect the eventual aggregation of PUMAs that are not delineated using whole counties.
 - Refer to [Understanding and Using the American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample Files \(census.gov\)](#) for more information. This document is located on the [Microdata \(census.gov\)](#) page.

2.2 What are the 2020 PUMA coding guidelines?

Refer to the *2020 PUMA Coding Guidelines* document on the [2020 PUMA website](#) for specifics on the coding for PUMAs, but at a summary level:

- PUMA codes must be a five-digit, numeric code, ranging from 00100 – 99995.
- PUMA codes must be unique within the state.
- Preserve the 2010 PUMA codes for 2020 if the geographic extent of the proposed PUMAs remain unchanged from 2010, except when it is necessary to establish an orderly, logical coding scheme within the state, as described in the next guideline.
- PUMA codes should be assigned sequentially within a state, beginning with 00100, 00200, 00300, and so forth in an orderly, logical manner. They should not be randomly assigned.
 - To establish this orderly, logical manner, assign codes using a geographic sequence that begins in the northwest corner of the state. Proceed with coding from west to east, then east to west in a serpentine fashion until each PUMA is coded. This sequence of coding promotes easy identification by visual inspection and review since codes that are close in numeric sequence should be close geographically
- Assign “00” as the fourth and fifth digits of the PUMA code for each PUMA that consists of either an entire county or group of whole counties. This coding signifies the PUMA is comprised of one or more whole counties.

- Assign the same first three digits of the PUMA code and increment up from “01” for the fourth and fifth digits, for each PUMA that splits a county or group of counties. This coding signifies the PUMA is comprised of one or more split counties.

2.3 What are the 2020 PUMA naming guidelines?

Refer to the *2020 PUMA Naming Guidelines* document on the [2020 PUMA website](#) for basic concepts and nomenclature details, but at a summary level the naming convention rules and guidelines include the following:

- PUMA names must not exceed 85 characters.
- PUMA names must be unique within the state.
- PUMA names must not include the state name or abbreviation, except where there is no clear cultural focus or topographic name that can be applied to the PUMA, as described above in #7.
- PUMA names may include hyphens to connect the names of multiple geographic areas.
- PUMA names representing multiple geographic areas joined by hyphens should be presented in the order of population size or regional importance, listing the most populous or most important first.
- PUMA names must use the Roman alphabet as normally used for writing the English language.
- PUMA names may use diacritical marks (i.e., accents, rings, tildes, and umlauts).
- PUMA names may include a limited number of abbreviations, though use of abbreviations is discouraged.

2.4 What are the minimum and maximum population thresholds for PUMAs?

The minimum population threshold is 100,000 and the maximum suggested population threshold is 200,000, with a few exceptions. A single PUMA should not contain more than 200,000 persons unless it is defined for an area in which significant population decline is anticipated. There are some unique situations where PUMAs may contain more than 200,000 in population due to geographic constraints, but it should be avoided whenever possible. Any county with a population substantially more than 200,000 should be subdivided into multiple PUMAs because PUMAs with a population between 100,000 to 200,000 are more suitable for detailed, meaningful analysis of data from the American Community Survey.

2.5 Why are core based statistical areas (CBSAs) important when delineating PUMAs?

Although not a criteria for PUMA delineation, for PUMS data to be meaningful, PUMA boundaries should be entirely within or entirely outside CBSA boundaries. The Census Bureau does not recommend splitting a PUMA among CBSAs. For more information about CBSAs refer to [Metropolitan and Micropolitan \(census.gov\)](#).

SECTION 3 REGISTRATION, PARTICIPATION, AND RESULTS

3.1 Who is eligible to participate in the 2020 PUMA?

The Census Bureau invites all State Data Centers (SDCs) that represent states or equivalent entities of more than 200,000 persons to participate in the 2020 PUMA. For states or equivalent entities with a population of more than 100,000, but less than 200,000 (i.e., Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands), the Census Bureau defines the single PUMA without the need for participant input or official program participation.

The Census Bureau encourages eligible SDCs to involve other interested individuals from tribal, state, and local governments as well as regional organizations and agencies, especially those that represent counties and cities over 100,000 people to ensure that PUMAs meet the needs of a variety of data users.

3.2 Who designates the 2020 PUMA primary and secondary contacts?

The State Data Center (SDC) leads received an email in early November 2020 that requested the designation of a primary and secondary contact for their respective SDC. As the program start date of September 2021 draws closer, SDCs may alter their contacts for the 2020 PUMA by sending an email to [<geo.puma@census.gov>](mailto:geo.puma@census.gov).

3.3 What is the registration process for the 2020 PUMA?

There is no formal registration process. The Census Bureau established a primary and secondary contact from State Data Centers in November 2020 and will announce the beginning of the 2020 PUMA in an email to those primary and secondary contacts in September 2021.

3.4 What are the options to participate in the 2020 PUMA?

There is only one option to participate in the 2020 PUMA – Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS). While participants may use their own geographic information system (GIS) to research, analyze, and prepare information, the GUPS must be used to create the PUMA project that includes the proposed PUMAs for submission to the Census Bureau.

3.5 Is training available for the 2020 PUMA?

The Census Bureau plans to conduct two trainings in October 2021 and one in December 2021. Information about these trainings is located on the [2020 PUMA website](#). Census Bureau staff will be available throughout the program to answer questions that may arise. Send an email to [<geo.puma@census.gov>](mailto:geo.puma@census.gov) for training or support outside of these three training opportunities.

3.6 Does the Census Bureau have a recommendation for developing a plan for participating in the 2020 PUMA?

Each State Data Center (SDC) should consider how they will conduct the PUMA work in their state, including work performed by others outside of the SDC (i.e., tribal, state, local governments and local or regional organizations), to determine the best delineation method(s) for their state or specific situation. If others are delineating PUMAs for their specific section of the state, the SDC must be prepared to import the work received into the state's PUMA project or load it into their project for reference and review. It is the responsibility of the SDC to determine what delineation manner works best for their state/situation and to communicate how they want the work completed and received. Instructions for loading/adding/importing data received from others is described in chapter 4 of the participant guide.

For SDCs that are the sole participant for their state, use GUPS and the recommendations described in the participant guide to complete the proposed delineations. For SDCs that plan to have others assist, the Census Bureau recommends SDCs create a folder on their computer or network, separate from the directory created by GUPS, to store the incoming proposed PUMAs (e.g., shapefiles, tabular equivalency files, text files, maps, etc.). Doing so protects information received should GUPS malfunction.

The Census Bureau recommends a thorough review of the PUMA documentation and establishing/maintaining communication with all interested data users and the Census Bureau throughout the timeframe of the program. Attending a PUMA training in the fall of 2021 is also highly recommended.

3.7 Will we receive confirmation that the Census Bureau received and accepts our proposed PUMAs?

The Secure Web Incoming Module (SWIM) generates a message on-screen indicating a successful transmission of the PUMA .zip file. The Census Bureau will send a separate email confirming receipt of the submission. As the Census Bureau reviews the submission, they will contact State Data Centers to discuss any questions or concerns they encounter with the proposed PUMAs.

3.8 Is feedback issued after submissions are processed?

There is no formal feedback issued based on the Census Bureau's content review of the State Data Center's submission. If there are issues discovered with the proposed PUMAs (e.g., naming, coding, boundaries) during processing, the Census Bureau may seek clarification or confirmation through email or a phone call to the primary and/or secondary contact(s).

3.9 When and where will the Census Bureau release the finalized PUMAs and associated data?

Finalized PUMAs from the 2020 PUMA and their associated PUMS data will be available online for use by the public beginning in summer of 2022 on data.census.gov.

SECTION 4 MATERIALS

4.1 What program materials are needed to participate in the 2020 PUMA?

Participants use the following program materials to create PUMAs:

- 2020 PUMA Final Criteria.
- 2020 PUMA Summary Guide.
- 2020 PUMA Participant Guide.
- 2020 PUMA Coding Guidelines.
- 2020 PUMA Naming Guidelines.
- Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS).
 - Required to delineate PUMAs and prepare a standardized output .zip file for submission.
- 2010 PUMA shapefile layer
 - Automatically loads in GUPS for use as visual reference.
- 2010 PUMA Names File.
 - Use as a reference and, if reusing a 2010 name and/or code for a 2020 PUMA, use to copy/paste the 2010 name and/or code into GUPS.
- Local data and materials for reference.

Note: Participants use the Secure Web Incoming Module (SWIM) to submit the proposed PUMAs to the Census Bureau for the 2020 PUMA. Learn more about SWIM in section 6 of this material. Detailed instructions on SWIM are in chapter 7 of the participant guide.

4.2 How are the program materials distributed?

The program materials are available online from the [2020 PUMA website](#) which is hosted on the main [PUMA website](#). State Data Centers (SDCs) must download the materials (e.g., instructions, software, etc.) from the respective websites. With SDCs serving as the primary participant, they must work to coordinate with individual and regional agency contributors. See the GUPS section of this FAQ document for questions related to multiple PUMA contributors.

4.3 How are the 2010 PUMA equivalency files used in the 2020 PUMA?

The 2010 PUMA equivalency files are state-based, tab-delimited text files that show the geographic correlations between the 2010 PUMAs and some standard 2010 Census geographic entities (e.g., counties, functioning minor civil divisions, places, and census tracts). These files, also known as PUMS Equivalency Files, delineate the summary level codes specific to the PUMA. It has its own set of summary level code and hierarchical sequencing. Refer to the “Reference Information” section on the [PUMA website](#) for these files and more information.

State Data Centers (SDCs) may wish to use the equivalency file for their state (or the 2010 Census Tract to 2010 PUMA relationship file) within a geographic information system (GIS) software to perform comparisons and analysis with other locally sourced data in preparation for creating 2020 PUMAs.

4.4 How is the 2010 Census Tract to 2010 PUMA Relationship File used in the 2020 PUMA?

The 2010 Census Tract to 2010 PUMA Relationship File is a nation-based, comma-delimited text file that identifies the state, county, and census tract(s) contained within a PUMA for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The file has four fields: two-digit state Federal Information Processing Series (FIPS) code, three-digit county FIPS code, six-digit census tract code, and five-digit 2010 PUMA code. The file does not include geographic names referenced by the FIPS codes. Locate this file in the “Reference Information” section of the [PUMA website](#).

State Data Centers (SDCs) may wish to use the relationship file (or the 2010 PUMA equivalency file for their state) within a geographic information system (GIS) software to perform comparisons and analysis with other locally sourced data in preparation for creating 2020 PUMAs.

4.5 How is the 2010 PUMA shapefile used in the 2020 PUMA?

The 2010 PUMA shapefile is a reference layer for use in creating 2020 PUMAs. The 2010 PUMA shapefile automatically loads into GUPS upon creation of the state’s PUMA project. Since the shapefile is based off 2010 geography, the 2010 PUMAs may not align exactly with the 2020 geographies that are used during the 2020 PUMA. Use the 2010 PUMA shapefiles as a visual reference during delineation.

SECTION 5 GEOGRAPHIC UPDATE PARTNERSHIP SOFTWARE (GUPS)

5.1 What is GUPS?

The Geographic Update Partnership Software, or GUPS, is a self-contained, customized geographic information system (GIS) software application provided to participants by the Census Bureau for use in completing many of their geographic programs and operations. Each geographic program supported by GUPS includes a unique set of tools built to run within the QGIS environment. For the 2020 PUMA, GUPS is programmed to allow for the sharing of work performed by multiple participants to facilitate a collaborative delineation effort and to prepare standardized output files of the delineated PUMAs for submission to the Census Bureau.

Note: State Data Centers use the Secure Web Incoming Module (SWIM), detailed in section 6 of these FAQs, to submit their proposed PUMAs to the Census Bureau.

Designed with the participant in mind, GUPS is user-friendly. It includes a review tool requiring the validation of the data to the program criteria and thresholds before creating a submission .zip file. GUPS ensures the submission is valid and allows for easier processing once received by the Census Bureau. GUPS does not require an internet connection to function, but one is necessary to use the “Census Web” option and the built-in imagery server.

GUPS allows participants to add external geospatial data (shapefiles, geodatabases, and imagery) and tabular data (e.g., text files in the .txt or .csv format) for comparison and update purposes.

5.2 Are there specific hardware/system requirements to install and use GUPS?

GUPS can be installed on both Windows® and Apple® operating systems. GUPS requires a minimum of 4 gigabytes (GB) of disk space and a minimum of 4 GB of RAM (8 GB preferred for optimal performance) to run. Disk space to store shapefiles varies by size of the shapefiles. Refer to the participant guide for specific instructions on downloading and installing GUPS.

5.3 Can I use a previously installed version of GUPS for the 2020 PUMA?

No, all participants must install an updated version of GUPS to participate in the 2020 PUMA. The updated version is available for download from the [2020 PUMA website](#). Confirm the version installed (i.e., version 14.0.0-6) prior to proceeding by using the GUPS→About GUPS menu.

5.4 We have downloaded GUPS from the PUMA website, but cannot install it. What should we do?

Many agencies/organizations require certain security privileges to download and install external software. Work with your local Information Technology (IT) staff person to gain those rights or ask they assist with installation. If you still have problems, please contact the Census Bureau by email at [<geo.puma@census.gov>](mailto:geo.puma@census.gov) for assistance.

5.5 We do not allow for the download and extraction of .zip files onto our network. How can we get the new GUPS version?

Contact the Census Bureau by email at [<geo.puma@census.gov>](mailto:geo.puma@census.gov) to request a secure email delivery of the software during your communication. Please note the software is in the form of a .zip file to extract and install locally. Work with your local Information Technology (IT) staff person to assist with installation.

5.6 Our IT staff installed the new GUPS version, but GUPS will not work for me. What should we do?

GUPS users with different security privileges other than IT staff that installed the software may encounter problems accessing the directories and plugins needed to operate GUPS. This usually occurs when the software is not installed under the user's profile. To correct this, have the IT staff person reinstall GUPS under the user's profile using the user's credentials.

5.7 Does GUPS execute checks or verify the data it imports into a PUMA project?

No, GUPS does not verify the data it imports. GUPS is programmed to check for basic field requirements (e.g., correct number of characters in code and name, no overlaps, etc.) during the import process, but it has no way of knowing whether what its importing is valid. Participants should conduct their own quality checks of the files they have prior to importing them. For details on quality checks performed outside of GUPS, refer to chapter 5 of the participant guide.

As part of the export process, the project undergoes final quality checks and verification to confirm proper format and adherence to the criteria and guidelines for the 2020 PUMA.

5.8 Does GUPS include pre-2020 population data?

No, the state-based county and state-based census tract shapefile layers used by GUPS includes the population counts from the 2020 Census. GUPS permits participants to load/add other files (e.g., pre 2020 figures or post-2020 local estimates) for reference purposes.

5.9 What is the best way to share proposed PUMA work with a State Data Center (SDC)?

All participants (e.g., SDCs, tribal, state, local governments, and regional planning agencies/organizations) must use GUPS to create proposed PUMAs for their area of interest. Once the proposed PUMAs are complete, the participant would use GUPS to export a shapefile or a tabular equivalency file (TEF) of their proposed PUMAs. They would share their exported file following the guidance they received from their SDC.

The Census Bureau recommends SDCs add/load the files into the state's PUMA project for review PRIOR to importing the work into the project. Once the SDC agrees with the work, they can use the added file as a reference to perform their own interactive delineation of the PUMAs or they can import and append the file (or files) into the state's PUMA project. The specifics of these tasks are included in chapter 4 of the participant guide.

5.10 How does a State Data Center (SDC) combine the proposed PUMA work received from others with the work they completed?

GUPS allows SDCs to import and append multiple files into the state's PUMA project; however, the Census Bureau strongly recommends reviewing all proposed PUMAs prior to importing the files into the project. Refer to chapter 4 in the participant guide for detailed instruction on adding a PUMA shapefile as a layer for reference and for importing a PUMA shapefile and/or PUMA tabular equivalency file (TEF) into a state's PUMA project.

5.11 Where does GUPS save the exported PUMA .zip file?

GUPS saves the exported PUMA .zip file to C:\GUPSGIS\gupsgisdata\PUMA20\output. Please note the drive label (e.g., C:\) may differ on your machine if the default installation directory changed during the installation process.

The file naming convention for the exported puma .zip file is "puma20_XX_return.zip", where XX is the two-digit FIPS code for the state. If you cannot locate the file, perform a file search for "puma20_*.zip".

SECTION 6 SECURE WEB INCOMING MODULE (SWIM)

6.1 What is SWIM?

The Secure Web Incoming Module, also known as SWIM, is the official web portal for secure upload of partnership materials to the Census Bureau. Due to Census Bureau IT Security policies, participants use SWIM to provide their 2020 PUMA submission .zip file to the Census Bureau.

Access SWIM from the following URL: <respond.census.gov/swim>.

6.2 Are there specific hardware/system requirements to use SWIM?

SWIM runs on the two most recent versions of each of the four major internet browsers (i.e., Internet Explorer®, Google Chrome®, Mozilla Firefox®, and Apple Safari®). If you encounter issues with using SWIM, confirm the browser version and update it if it is not one of the latest two versions. If you are still having issues, contact the Census Bureau at <geo.puma@census.gov> for assistance.

6.3 Can I use an existing SWIM account for the 2020 PUMA?

Yes, individuals can use existing SWIM accounts for the 2020 PUMA.

6.4 How do I determine if I have an existing SWIM account?

To determine whether a SWIM account exists, click the “Forgot your password” link on the main SWIM page and enter the email address to check for account existence. If SWIM does not locate an account associated with the email address, it will return the following message, “*No account registered for this email. Go to Account Registration.*” Choosing the ‘Account Registration’ link opens a window to establish a new SWIM account.

For those without an account, the PUMA Team will provide a SWIM token during their follow-up after receipt of the announcement email or email <geo.puma@census.gov> to request a new SWIM token to proceed with establishing a new account.

6.5 How do I resolve problems logging into SWIM?

First, the email and password components of the SWIM system accounts are case-sensitive. If you have forgotten the case-sensitive format used when establishing the SWIM account, this may be the source of your login problems.

SWIM allows four attempts to login before it temporarily locks your account for 15 minutes. If you have attempted to login four times, wait 15 minutes and try to login again using different case sensitive combinations for your email address. If you have simply forgotten your password, you may reset your password using the ‘Forgot your password’ link on the login page. This functionality works in the same manner as other online websites; however, if you cannot remember the case-sensitive format used for the email address, this password reset functionality will not work. To attempt to reset your password, follow the prompts for entering

your case-sensitive email address and providing your security answer. If the security answer is correct, the SWIM system will send a password reset link to the email account for use in resetting the password. The security answer is not case-sensitive.

As a last resort, the Census Bureau can issue another SWIM token to establish another SWIM account for your use. Please contact the Census Bureau by email at <geo.puma@census.gov> for another token.

6.6 How do I reset my SWIM password?

If you have forgotten your SWIM password, you can reset your password by going to the SWIM website and selecting “Forgot your password?” on the login page. SWIM allows you to reset your password information and security questions.

Once selected, follow the prompts to enter your email address and provide your security answer. If the security answer is correct, the SWIM system sends a password reset link to the email account for use in resetting the password.

Once logged into SWIM, users can modify their password and security answer by selecting the ‘Change Security’ link at the top, right-hand side of the page.

6.7 How do I submit my state’s proposed PUMAs?

Access SWIM from the following URL: <respond.census.gov/swim> and follow the instructions in chapter 7 of the participant guide. Note that FAQ 5.11 gives information regarding the file’s location.

6.8 How do I resolve SWIM issues encountered when submitting my state’s proposed PUMAs?

Three of the most common issues with SWIM involve the web browser, the file extension, and the file size.

SWIM supports the two most recent versions of Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox, and Apple Safari. If your version is older, upgrade to a newer browser version and try uploading again.

SWIM only recognizes “.zip” file extensions, so ensure the file you are attempting to submit is in the .zip file format. This should not be an issue for PUMA participants since GUPS creates a .zip file during the Export for Census process.

Lastly, SWIM currently has a size limitation of 250 megabytes for .zip files. Most submissions will easily fall beneath the 250 megabytes size limitation. If your file is larger than 250 megabytes, please contact the Census Bureau by email at <geo.puma@census.gov> to discuss options for making your state’s submission.